

Data Recorders

We are beginning a pilot program, offering the use of data recorders to Alaska farmers. The data recorders we purchased log the date/time and the temperature and the humidity at that given date and time. The logging time can be adjusted from one second up to one hour increments, and everything in between. The test data recorder that was sent out was set at one minute increments. When it was returned, we downloaded the information off of it, and put it into a spreadsheet, which was then returned to the farmer for their own use and information.

Operation: We will go to the farmers and drop the data recorder into a produce box, while it is being harvested. Within this box we will also place a padded addressed and stamped envelope and a paper describing what the item is and what to do with it. On the back of that paper, we will record the “vendor #” the product and the date/time it was dropped, so we know who to return the information to. We will keep a list here at the Division of the farmers/vendors and their corresponding numbers, to retain confidentiality.

The producer may or may not know what box it is in. Hopefully it will be unknown to them and all others, so preferential treatment is not given to the box. Whether the box is going to the farmers market, or it is going to a distributor or warehouse, valuable information will be recorded, returned to the Division and passed onto the producer. We are hoping that the way the program is structured will encourage a high success rate of returned recorders so that valuable data is not lost.

If you are a distributor/warehouse, or operate a grocery store, you will want to keep your eyes open for these recorders and return them in the envelope provided. We are piloting this project to assist our producers in delivering a quality product and we understand that as a distributor/warehouse or grocery store, you want to receive quality products. These data recorders are gathering information, so this can be done!

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact either Patricia O’Neil @ 761-3858, or Mia Kirk@ 761-3853.